



November 13, 2004

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THANKSGIVING TRAVEL ACCIDENT PREDICTIONS ANNOUNCED

The Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) and the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS) jointly released today the travel accident predictions for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Both Agencies urge caution, as the roadways will be crowded during this traditional time for families to get together.

The agencies estimate that approximately 3,470 accidents will occur resulting in 934 injuries and 20 fatalities. The counting period covers 102 hours beginning at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 24, 2004 and ending at midnight, Sunday, November 28, 2004.

DMVS Commissioner James R. Davis offers sound advice to help prevent travel accidents. "Plan your route well in advance, prepare your vehicle for winter driving and always wear seatbelts. Please slow down regardless of the posted speed. Do not drive faster than is sensible considering the traffic, weather condition and roadway," said Davis.

Colonel George Ellis, Commander of the GSP adds: "Now through the end of the year is the period when we see a noticeable increase in the number of impaired drivers on our roads. Troopers will be keeping a sharp eye out for those who choose to drink and drive," he added. Motorists who see a suspected drunk driver should report the vehicle to the nearest State Patrol post by calling "Star G-S-P" (*477) on their cell phone.

The DMVS became the responsible Agency for gathering, storing and producing the Holiday Accident Forecasts and Accident Data effective July 1, 2001. Last year's Thanksgiving holiday travel period resulted in 20 fatalities and 918 injuries. The highest number of fatalities ever recorded for the Thanksgiving Holiday was 43 in 1969; the lowest ever recorded was four in 1949.